

Appl. No.: 10/575,607

Applicant: Lind et al

Filed: April 13, 2006

TC/A.U.: 3752

Examiner: Davis D. Hwu

Docket No.: 1340US

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria VA 22313-1450

## **AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office action of September 7, 2011, please amend the above identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A method for thermally protecting a variable speed electric paint sprayer having an electric motor, a control and a temperature, and which operates to maintain a user-selected controlled pressure, the method comprising:

monitoring the temperature of said electric motor; and

reducing said controlled pressure from said user-selected controlled pressure and

continuing to continuously spray at a reduced non-zero pressure when said electric motor temperature exceeds a predetermined level.

2. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said change occurs only after said motor temperature has exceeded said predetermined level for a predetermined length of time of motor operation.

3. (currently amended): A method for thermally protecting a variable speed electric paint sprayer having an electric motor, a control and a temperature, and which operates to maintain a user-selected controlled pressure, the method comprising:

monitoring the temperature of said motor; and

changing the control of said motor from variable speed control to on/off control when said motor temperature exceeds a predetermined level to enable continued continuous spraying at said user-selected pressure.

4. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein said change occurs only after said motor temperature has exceeded said predetermined level for a predetermined length of time of motor operation.

5. (currently amended): A method for thermally protecting a variable speed electric paint sprayer having an electric motor, a control and a temperature, and which operates to maintain a user-selected controlled pressure, the method comprising:

monitoring the temperature of said motor;

reducing the controlled pressure from said user-selected controlled pressure and

continuing to continuously spray at a reduced non-zero pressure when said motor temperature exceeds a first predetermined level; and

changing the control of said motor from variable speed control to on/off control when

said motor temperature exceeds a second predetermined level to enable continued spraying at a reduced non-zero pressure.

6. (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said second predetermined level is higher than said first predetermined level.

Appl.No. 10/575,607  
Amdt.dated December 7, 2011  
Reply to Office action of September 7, 2011

7. (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said change occurs only after said motor temperature has exceeded said predetermined level for a predetermined length of time of motor operation.

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laabs et al.

Applicants' invention provides a method for allowing electric sprayers to operate efficiently in such a way that performance is slightly reduced while maintaining spraying in the event the motor should reach an elevated temperature. Applicants' invention as defined in claim 1 allows the unit to continue spraying but at a controlled reduced pressure level which will reduce the temperature of the motor. There is no suggestion in any of the cited references of record to this controlled pressure stepdown (to a non-zero level) in response to attainment of a predetermined temperature to allow continued spraying.

Laabs shows a pressure washer which monitors the pressure of the water being pumped (col. 4, lines 26 et seq) not the temperature of the electric motors as claimed. Laabs' concern is with the temperature of the pump (col. 4, lines 28-30) not the motor. Shutting off the motor in response to an over-temperature condition is not on-off control (deadband control is another art-recognized name for the same control scheme) as claimed. Laabs will not continue to spray continuously as claimed while under off-off control but will at best dribble out a stream as the pressure is relieved. Thus, the specific limitations of monitoring the temperature of the electric motor and continuing to continuously spray at a reduced non-zero pressure are nowhere shown nor suggested in Laabs or any of the other references of record.

Further the specific limitations of claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 are nowhere shown in the references of record nor even addressed in the Office Action.

Appl.No. 10/575,607  
Amdt.dated December 7, 2011  
Reply to Office action of September 7, 2011

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application as amended patentably distinguishes over the rejection of record

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

/dbf/

Douglas B. Farrow  
Registration No. 28582  
Graco Inc.  
PO Box 1441  
Minneapolis, MN 55440  
(612) 623-6769  
pto@graco.com